I. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces without prejudice all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A camera-based system for capturing images of a target area comprising:

a generally horizontally extending boom assembly having a length of from about 30 to 50 inches, said boom assembly being positioned generally above the midpoint of a target area;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from the plane of said target area, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said target area; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller receiving image data from said at least one digital camera and processing said image data to form a digital image of said target area.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1 wherein said boom assembly includes a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting said at least one digital camera.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to a wall surface.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein said boom assembly is articulated and is moveable between an extended operating position and a folded retracted condition.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6 wherein said boom assembly includes a pair of hinges at spaced locations along said boom to enable said boom to fold over itself.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 7 wherein each of said hinges includes a locking mechanism to retain said boom assembly in said extended operating position.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 4 wherein said camera head supports a plurality of digital cameras, each of said digital cameras having a field of view that encompasses a distinct section of said target area, fields of view of adjacent digital cameras overlapping slightly.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said camera head supports a pair of digital cameras.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said camera head supports three digital cameras.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 9 wherein said camera head supports a single digital camera.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 12 wherein said digital camera is pivotally mounted on said camera head and is moveable about an arc to capture images of distinct sections of said target area, images of adjacent distinct sections of said target overlapping.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 1 wherein said controller is coupled to a computer network and uses resources of said computer network.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 14 wherein said controller uses storage, printing, distribution and/or remote viewing resources of said computer network.

16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said controller has Internet server capabilities and is coupled to a distributed computer network to allow said digital image to be accessed by a user through an Internet browser.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller is a dedicated appliance.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller is a personal computer.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller sends said digital image to a designated secondary storage location in said distributed computer network.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller includes a display to present the digital image.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 16 wherein said controller processes image data received from said at least one digital camera to yield high contrast pen strokes on a white or empty background.

22. (Original) A system according to claim 21 wherein said pen strokes are in colour.

23. (Previously Presented) A camera-based system for capturing images of a target area comprising:

a boom assembly adapted to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from said surface, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said target area; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller conditioning said at least one digital camera to acquire an image of said target area, said image acquired by said at least one digital camera being conveyed to said controller and processed to form a digital image of said target area including high contrast pen strokes on a white or empty background, said digital image being accessible to a user through a web client application.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 23 wherein said controller automatically publishes said digital image.

25. (Original) A system according to claim 24 wherein said controller also sends said digital image to a designated secondary storage location.

26. (Original) A system according to claim 24 wherein said controller processes image data received from said at least one digital camera to reduce the size of said digital image.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23 wherein said controller saves said digital image in a selected format.

29. (Original) A system according to claim 28 wherein said selected format is a .JPEG format.

30. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23 wherein said controller includes a display to present the digital image.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 23 wherein said boom assembly includes a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting said at least one digital camera.

32. (Original) A system according to claim 31 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to said surface.

33. (Original) A system according to claim 31 wherein said boom assembly is articulated and moveable between an extended operating position and a folded retracted condition.

34. (Original) A system according to claim 33 wherein said boom assembly includes a pair of hinges at spaced locations along said boom to enable said boom to fold over itself.

35. (Original) A system according to claim 34 wherein each of said hinges includes a locking mechanism to retain said boom assembly in said extended operating position.

36. (Original) A system according to claim 31 wherein said camera head supports a plurality of digital cameras, each of said digital cameras having a field of view that encompasses a distinct section of said target area, fields of view of adjacent digital cameras overlapping slightly.

37. (Original) A system according to claim 36 wherein said camera head supports a pair of digital cameras.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 36 wherein said camera head supports three digital cameras.

39. (Original) A system according to claim 36 wherein said camera head supports a single digital camera.

40. (Original) A system according to claim 39 wherein said digital camera is pivotally mounted on said camera head and is moveable about an arc to capture images of distinct sections of said target area, images of adjacent distinct sections of said target overlapping.

41. (Original) A system according to claim 31 wherein said boom assembly has a length of from about 30 to 50 inches.

42. (Original) A camera-based system for capturing images of a target surface comprising:

a board mounted on a wall and having a surface on which information is to be recorded;

a boom assembly positioned above said board and extending outwardly from said wall in a generally horizontal disposition;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from said wall, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses a target area of said surface; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera and having Internet server capabilities, said controller being responsive to user input and conditioning said at least one digital camera to acquire an image of said target area, said image acquired by said at least one digital camera being conveyed to said controller and processed to form an electronic image of said target area, said electronic image being published automatically to allow said electronic image to be accessed by a user through a web client application.

43. (Original) A system according to claim 42 wherein said target area corresponds to said surface.

44. (Original) A system according to claim 43 wherein said controller also sends said electronic image to a designated secondary storage location.

45. (Original) A system according to claim 44 wherein said controller processes image data received from said at least one digital camera to reduce the size of said digital image.

46. (Original) A system according to claim 45 wherein said image data is processed to yield high contrast pen strokes on a white or empty background.

47. (Original) A system according to claim 46 wherein said controller saves said electronic image in a selected format.

48. (Original) A system according to claim 47 wherein said controller includes a display to present the electronic image.

49. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 42 wherein said boom assembly includes a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting said at least one digital camera.

50. (Original) A system according to claim 49 wherein said boom assembly has a length of from about 30 to 50 inches.

51. (Previously Presented) An image publication and distribution method comprising the steps of:

acquiring an image of a target area that includes information recorded on said target area using an optical recording device, said optical recording

device being mounted on a generally horizontal boom positioned above said target area;

processing said image to yield high contrast pen strokes on a white or empty background; and

posting said image to a site in response to user input to allow said image to be accessed by a user through a client browser application.

52. (Original) The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of forwarding said electronic image to a secondary location for storage.

53. (Cancelled)

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 further comprising the step of presenting said image on a display device while said image is being posted.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51 wherein said high contrast pen strokes are in colour.

56. (Previously Presented) A system for capturing images of an area of interest comprising:

a boom extending outwardly from a wall surface and being positioned above an area to be imaged;

an optical recording device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said area, said optical recording device being aimed towards said area; and

a controller in communication with said optical recording device, said controller conditioning said optical recording device to acquire at least one image of said area in response to operator input.

57. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56 wherein said boom is positioned adjacent the midpoint of said area.

58. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 57 wherein said boom includes a wall mount, a boom arm extending outwardly from said wall mount, and a camera head adjacent a distal end of said boom arm, said camera head accommodating said optical recording device.

59. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 58 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to said wall surface.

60. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56 wherein said controller is coupled to a computer network and uses resources of said computer network.

61. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 56 wherein said controller has web server capabilities and is coupled to a distributed computer network to allow captured images to be accessed by a user via a web browser.

62. (Previously Presented) A system for capturing an image comprising:

an arm configured to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface;

an imaging device mounted adjacent a distal end of said arm at a location laterally spaced from said surface, said imaging device being operable to capture an image of a write board mounted on said surface below said arm; and

a controller in communication with said imaging device, said controller conditioning said imaging device to acquire an image of said area in response to operator input, said controller further posting said acquired image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input.

63. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said controller includes a web server having a dedicated web address.

64. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said arm is coupled to a mount that is configured to be secured to said surface.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said imaging device comprises at least one digital camera.

67. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 62 wherein said controller includes a first button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to condition said imaging device to acquire an image, and a second button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to post said acquired image to said site.

68. (Previously Presented) A system for capturing images of a writing surface comprising:

a boom extending outwardly from a wall surface and being positioned above said writing surface to be imaged;

a digital camera device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said wall surface, said digital camera device being actuable to capture an image of said writing surface; and

a controller mounted on said wall surface and being in communication with said digital camera device, said controller conditioning said digital camera device to capture at least one image of said writing surface in response to operator input.

69. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 68 wherein said controller further posts said at least one captured image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input.

70. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 69 wherein said controller includes a web server having a dedicated web address.

71. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 70 wherein said boom is coupled to a mount that is secured to said wall surface.

72. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 70 wherein said controller includes a first button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to condition said digital camera device to capture said at least one image, and a second button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to post said at least one captured image to said site.

73. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 70 wherein said controller is mounted to one side of said writing surface.

74. (Previously Presented) An imaging system to capture an image of a write board mounted on a wall surface, said imaging system comprising:

a boom configured to extend outwardly from said wall surface above said write board;

an imaging device mounted on said boom at a location laterally spaced from said wall surface, said imaging device being actuable to capture an image of said write board; and

a controller configured to be mounted on said wall surface and being in communication with said imaging device, said controller conditioning said imaging device to capture an image of said write board in response to operator input.

75. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 74 wherein said controller further posts said captured image to a site accessible to a user through a web client application in response to operator input.

76. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 75 wherein said controller includes a web server having a dedicated web address.

77. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 75 wherein said boom is coupled to a mount that is configured to be secured to said wall surface.

78. (Previously Presented) An imaging system according to claim 75 wherein said controller includes a first button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to condition said imaging device to capture an image and a second button actuable by an operator to cause said controller to post said captured image to said site.

79. (Previously Presented) A camera-based system for capturing images of a target area comprising:

a generally horizontally extending boom assembly, said boom assembly being positioned above a target area;

at least one digital camera mounted on said boom assembly at a location spaced from the plane of said target area, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said target area; and

a controller having Internet server capabilities and being in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller receiving image data from said at least one digital camera and processing said image data to form a digital image of said target area including high contrast pen strokes on a white or empty background, said controller being coupled to a distributed computer network to allow said digital image to be accessed by a user through an Internet browser.

80. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller is a dedicated appliance.

81. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller is a personal computer.

82. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller sends said digital image to a designated secondary storage location in said distributed computer network.

83. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said controller includes a display to present the digital image.

84. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 79 wherein said pen strokes are in colour.

85. (Previously Presented) A camera-based system for capturing images of a target area comprising:

a boom assembly adapted to extend outwardly from a generally vertical surface, said boom assembly including a wall mount, a boom extending outwardly from said wall mount and a camera head on a distal end of said boom, said camera head supporting at least one digital camera.

at least one digital camera supported by said camera head at a location spaced from said surface, said at least one digital camera being oriented so that the field of view thereof encompasses said target area; and

a controller in communication with said at least one digital camera, said controller conditioning said at least one digital camera to acquire an image of said target area, said image acquired by said at least one digital camera being conveyed to said controller and processed to form a digital image of said target area, said digital image being accessible to a user through a web client application.

86. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said wall mount is releasably coupled to a wall plate secured to said surface.

87. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said boom assembly is articulated and moveable between an extended operating position and a folded retracted condition.

88. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 87 wherein said boom assembly includes a pair of hinges at spaced locations along said boom to enable said boom to fold over itself.

89. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 88 wherein each of said hinges includes a locking mechanism to retain said boom assembly in said extended operating position.

90. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said camera head supports a plurality of digital cameras, each of said digital cameras having a field of view that encompasses a distinct section of said target area, fields of view of adjacent digital cameras overlapping slightly.

91. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 90 wherein said camera head supports a pair of digital cameras.

92. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 90 wherein said camera head supports three digital cameras.

93. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 90 wherein said camera head supports a single digital camera.

94. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 93 wherein said digital camera is pivotally mounted on said camera head and is moveable about an arc to capture images of distinct sections of said target area, images of adjacent distinct sections of said target overlapping.

95. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 85 wherein said boom assembly has a length of from about 30 to 50 inches.